Policy on guiding cellular services along The international border

*50. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Secretary called a meeting of Committee of Secretaries to end the dispute between Ministries of IT, Defence and Home on policy, guiding cellular services within 10 km of the international border;

(b) if so, the main decision taken in the meeting with all concerned in the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence and Information Technology;

(c) the final outcome of the discussion held; and

(d) by what time it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) The issue of provision of mobile services along the International border was deliberated by the Committee of Secretaries (COS) and based on the main decisions taken, the existing restrictions in providing mobile services within 10 Kms. of International borders have been relaxed by incorporating the following amendments in the licence agreements of mobile service providers:

(i) There shall be a "No Service Zone" of 500 Meters width along the International border within Indian Territory for wireless/mobile service, where the Licensee (s) are not permitted to provide wireless/mobile service.

(ii) The Licensee(s) shall create a "Buffer Zone" of 10 KMs width along the Line of Cotnrol (LOC), Line of Actual Control (LAC), Akhnoor and Pathankot areas in J&K, as applicable, wherein they shall not deploy their Cell site(s)/BTS(s)/Radio Transmitter(s).